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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Typed
19 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Contact with AECASSOWARY-2, 4 & 15 ^{from 12} February 1957.

1. Contact with Subjects by [] and [] at the home of AECASSOWARY-15 was made at 1120 hours on 12 February and continued at the Yenching Palace Restaurant on Connecticut Avenue and Porter Street. The meeting was requested by AECASSOWARY-2 in order to discuss the AEREADY Program as it concerns Ukrainian candidates and to discuss the AECUPBOARD Program.

2. AECASSOWARY-2 expressed concern over the fact that there would be no Ukrainian candidates in the first phase of the cadre training. It was agreed that to insure the availability of Ukrainian candidates for the second phase, AECASSOWARY-4 would continue his spotting activities and submit the names of likely candidates for routine processing; i.e., name traces, POA requests, psychological and code aptitude tests, and medical examinations, so that all the administrative details can be done on a non-rush basis before phase two of the cadre training.

3. Regarding Project AECUPBOARD, AECASSOWARY-2 expressed his disappointment about the delay in the program. He stated that a large number of the agencies through which packages had been sent to the USSR have ceased operating and that it was growing more difficult to mail the packages.

4. The following incidental intelligence was reported by AECASSOWARY-2 during the meeting:

Yusef Yelenski
a. AECASSOWARY-2 had opportunity, during a visit to Canada, to talk with a Ukrainian communist who recently visited the Soviet Union. He has since abandoned communism. He told AECASSOWARY-2 about some of his experiences in the Ukraine. One of the Ukrainian communists in the party of travelers from Canada reported that his sister, who lives in the Ukraine, barred him from her home when she learned of his communist convictions.

b. In the area around Tornopol a large number of tanks and other military vehicles were seen being moved.

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c. In one Ukrainian village alone there were 7 boys drafted into the Baltic Navy. These boys had no former naval experience.

d. About 80 per cent of the population in the Ukraine listens to the short-wave radio broadcasts; i.e., VOA, RFE, BBC, etc. People will gather in a home where there is a radio available, station one man at a window to insure that there is no Soviet in the vicinity and switch from one station to another, if any jamming is encountered. The village people seem to be well acquainted with the political tendencies of each other.

e. It now is quite easy to sell American dollars on the black market in the USSR. The people are not very keen on obtaining Canadian dollars, but they will purchase them at a price less than they will pay for American dollars. One can get as high as 15 Karbovantchi for one American dollar. These American dollars are being sent mainly by the Jews to Switzerland via Roumania.

f. The Carpathian Mountain forests are being cut down by the Communists for use as fuel and lumber.

g. The man to whom AECASSOWARY-2 spoke told about a strike which took place at a kolkhoz where potatoes were grown. When the people refused to pick the potatoes before the winter frost, the communist authorities released the children from school and sent them out to dig and pick the potatoes. For their services they were given a piece of bread and butter. At another kolkhoz where a similar strike took place the communist authorities broke the strike by threatening to confiscate all the samogon kettles. The workers on the kolkhozs appeared very indifferent about whether or not any work ever got done. At one of the kolkhozs which the man visited, the call to work was sounded at 10 am, the workers reported to the fields about 11 am and by the time stretching and social amenities were completed, it was 12 noon before any work got underway. The people claim it doesn't pay them to put forth any effort.

h. The man related to AECASSOWARY-2 his experience of attending the October Revolution Parade in KIEV. He was told by friends that in order to see the parade a special pass was required. He stated that he did not want to reserve a seat or any particular spot, but that he intended to watch the parade while walking along the streets. He was told this was not possible and that he would require a pass if he intended to be in the vicinity of the parade. This pass was obtained for him by a friend. He had about 1 and 1/2 blocks to walk from his hotel to the parade route. In this 1 and 1/2

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blocks, he was required to produce his pass and his passport on 11 occasions and he was searched by the Military guards. General ~~K~~CHUIKOV was the principle speaker at this parade in KIEV. He spoke for about 10 minutes in the Russian language. He was followed by a speaker in the Ukrainian language who expounded Soviet propaganda for about 2 hours but nobody paid much attention to him.

i. The man told AECASSOWARY-2 that at no time during his trip was he aware of his baggage being searched. In other words, his bags were not opened even for customs inspection (to his knowledge).

j. It is very difficult to mail packages (or at least in the Ukraine) from one raion to another. One individual who, when he bought himself a new hat, wanted to mail his old one to his sister in another raion so that she could sell it on the blackmarket. He searched 3 days before he could find wrapping paper in which to mail the hat. This paper he obtained in one of the local hotels. However, when he brought his package to the post-office he was told that the hat would have to be wrapped either in a wooden carton of specific measurements or in a cloth bag and sewed together on both ends. The man could not find any material in which to wrap the hat; therefore, he cut the legs off his underwear, placed the hat into it and tied it at both ends with some string. The woman at the post-office told him it was not acceptable unless sewed together. After arguing about where to obtain the needle for sewing, the postmistress gave up and accepted the package.

5. [] told AECASSOWARY-4 that he planned to be in New York in about 10 days and would contact him at that time. He promised AECASSOWARY-4 to have ready at that time a form listing the type of biographical data necessary in order to permit processing names submitted for consideration for the AEREADY Program.

6. AECASSOWARY-2 and 4 were requested to mail in their expense reports for this last trip, so that the expense accounting can be kept current.

7. The meeting was terminated at 1415 hours. No date was specified for the next meeting.

[]
SR/7/DOB/P&P

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